STD Service from Delhi

646. SHRI SHANT1I TYAGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that STD service from Delhi to Ghaziabad, Meerut and Saharanpur is very poor and faulty and the lines are generally out of order;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to streamline the service?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SA-THE): (a) No, Sir. STD service from Delhi to Meerut and Saharanpur is satisfactory. Calls from Delhi to Ghaziabad are treated as local calls only. The service from Delhi to Ghaziabad, is not fully satis-factory.

(b) The peformance of strowger type exchange (85-Level) at Ghaziabad which is very old *is* not up-to the mark. The same is benig replaced.

(c) Following steps are being taken to improve the service further:

(i) At Ghaziabad, old strowger exchange (85-Level). is being replaced by a Digital Electronic Exchange (E-10B type) which is already under installation.

(ii) Modern PCM systems are being provided between Delhi and Ghaziabad to increase the number of junction lines and improving the quality of service.

(iii) Additional circuits are being proposed to be provided from Delhi to Meerut and Saharanpur.

Capital Investment for CIL

647. SHRI YALLA SESI BHU-SHANA RAO: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have cut down capital investment for Coal India Limited (CIL) by Rs. 296 crores during 1987-88, 1988-89;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that the cut in capital investment affects the production target of coal during the corresponding period; ana

(d) whether Government consider that the shortage of coal production will have an adverse impact on other industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C. K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The outlay for Coal India Ltd. will be higher in 1988-89 at Rs. 1314 crores as against Rs. 961 crores sanctioned in 1987-88. However, the outlay approved is less than the amount sought by Coal India Ltd. The amount approved by the Planning Commission has been arrived at in the light of the total resource availability and after detailed scrutiny of the requirements of coal mining projects and production needs.

(c) As coal mining projects usually have a long gestation period, lower allocation of funds compared to the requirement . projected by Coal India Ltd.. will not have significantly adverse effect on production* in the year 1988-89.